

REMARKS

Claims 16-21 are presently pending in this application and have been subject to restriction as follows:

- Group I: claims 16-18, drawn to a microorganism that is able to utilize cyclopentene derivatives of formula VII as sole N, C, or both sources and extracts thereof and:
- Group II: claims 19-21, drawn to an enzyme which has N-acetlaminoalcohol hydrolase activity obtainable from the microbes of Group I.

In support of the present restriction requirement, the Examiner has alleged that the subject matter of the claims represents two distinct inventions.

Applicants elect, with traverse, the subject matter encompassed by Group I, *i.e.*, Claims 16-18 encompassing a microorganism that is able to utilize cyclopentene derivatives of formula VII as sole N, C, or both sources and extracts thereof. Applicants reserve their right to pursue the subject matter encompassed by the non-elected claims in another application.

Favorable consideration of the pending claims and allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmella L. Stephens

Henry Tang

Patent Office Reg. No. 29,705

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Carmella L. Stephens

Patent Office Reg. No. 41,328

Agent for Applicant(s)

(212) 408-2539

BAKER BOTTS, L.L.P.

30 Rockefeller Plaza

New York, New York 10112